Constant increase in WPI

1578. SHRl DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) has been constantly increasing during each of the last three financial years;

(b) if so, the break up of average annual rise in the rate of WPI during the above period;

(c) whether the rate of inflation based on WPI has declined to a five year low in September, 2007;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and the reasons therefore; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to check the rising rate of WPI and inflation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The average inflation measured in terms of WPI for all commodities for last 5 years with the monthly breakup is indicated below:

Average year-on-year inflation (%)

Period	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Apr	6.59	4.51	5.91	3.86	6.28
May	6.51	5.02	5.55	4.73	5.46
Jun	5.40	6.68	4.32	5.12	4.53
Jul	4.65	7.61	4.29	4.83	4.71
Aug	3.95	8.46	3.66	5.12	4.14
Sep	4.90	7.92	4.06	5.38	3.32P
Oct	5.13	7.27	4.71	5.51	3.02P
Nov	5.42	7.52	4.21	5.50	
Dec	5.80	6.73	4.45	5.68	
Jan	6.50	5.54	4.08	6.37	
Feb	6.14	5.01	4.03	6.36	
Mar	4.78	5.39	3.85	6.61	
Average	5.48	6.47	4.42	5.43	

P-Provisional

(e) Containment of inflation remains high on the agenda of the Government. Anti-inflationary policies of the government include strict fiscal and monetary discipline, rationalization of duties of essential items so that there is no undue burden on the poor, effective supply-demand management of essential commodities through liberal tariff and trade policies, and strengthening the public distribution system.

Non-clearance of refund cases of senior citizens

1579. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Income Tax authorities in Delhi have not cleared all the refund cases of senior citizens for the financial years, 2005-06 and 2004-05 and assessment years, 2006-07 and 2005-2006;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the total refund cases for the above category for each of the above years and those remaining pending, year-wise?